

REMARKS

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has amended claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 as being directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on claims 8, 9, 11 and 12.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 14, 17, 18 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer et al. (US Pub No. 2001/0011740). The Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer (US Pub No. 2001/0011740) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Toshio (JP 04-092423). The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer '740 as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Slomowitz (US Patent 4,888,088). The Examiner has rejected claims 24, 25, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer '740 in view of Slomowitz '088. The Examiner has rejected claims 26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer '740 and Slomowitz '088 as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Hasegawa (US Patent 5,677,015). The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer '740 as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Park et al. (US Patent 5,910,218). The Examiner has rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBoer '740 and Slomowitz '088 as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Park et al. (US Patent 5,910,218).

Submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by Inventor Pravin K. Narwankar indicating invention of the claims of the above referenced application prior to the February 26, 1998 filing date of DeBoer (Patent Application Publication No. US2001/0011740 A1). As such, Applicant respectfully requests the removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections based upon DeBoer. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 14-29 and 31 are now in a condition for allowance.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS